

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA:WBRUBECK

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S E C R E T STATE 059111

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 07227 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 06 MAR 78

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 07227

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOR INR SAUNDERS ONLY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PGOV XF US EG

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGY

REF: (A) STATE 54290, (B) AMMAN 2110

1. WHEN READING REF A, I HAD SAME REACTION THAT ROY
ATHERTON AND HIS GROUP HAD ABOUT APPARENT INTENTION TO
POSTPONE COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE ISRAELIS ON THE ESSENTIAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 059111

ISSUES. ROY HAS ELOQUENTLY MADE THE CASE AGAINST SUCH A
STRATEGY IN REF B. I CONCUR IN EVERYTHING SAID IN THAT
MESSAGE.

2. I CAN APPRECIATE OUR UNWILLINGNESS PUBLICLY OR PRI-
VATELY PORTRAY UPCOMING BEGIN VISIT AS CONFRONTATIONAL.
THERE MAY ALSO BE DOMESTIC FACTORS OF WHICH I AM NOT FULLY

AWARE THAT MAY MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO TAKE A STRONG LINE WITH BEGIN ON THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES OF SETTLEMENTS, THE APPLICABILITY OF UN RESOLUTION 242 TO ALL FRONTS, AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE; BUT DEPT SHOULD BE IN NO DOUBT THAT TOP EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP FROM SADAT ON DOWN EXPECT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY WILL VIGOROUSLY PURSUE THOSE ISSUES AND MAKE IT CLEAR TO BEGIN THAT HIS PERTINENT POSITIONS ARE UNACCEPTABLE. AS YOU KNOW, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE UNEASINESS ON PART OF TOP EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP THAT, DESPITE OUR STRONG WORDS, WE WILL IN FACT WAVER WHEN BEGIN ARRIVES AND TRY TO FINESSE THESE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. IF WE DO SO, OUR CREDIBILITY HERE WILL BE BADLY DAMAGED, AS WILL SADAT'S PERSONAL CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE SECRETARY.

3. FONMIN KAMEL MADE THE POINT TO ROY ATHERTON TODAY THAT IF BEGIN REFUSES TO GO ALONG WITH OUR VIEWS ON THESE THREE CRITICAL ISSUES, HE HOPED USG WOULD USE OTHER MEANS AVAILABLE TO US TO PERSUADE HIM. HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC, BUT HE CLEARLY MEANT TANGIBLE PRESSURE. KAMEL MAY BE ASKING MORE THAN WE CAN OR WOULD WISH TO DO. AS SEEN FROM HERE, HOWEVER, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT AFTER BEGIN VISIT WE BE ABLE TO MAKE DEMONSTRABLE CASE TO GOE THAT WE HAVE INDEED HONORED OUR WORD TO SADAT AND AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF USG VIGOROUSLY PRESSED ISRAELI PRIMIN ON THESE THREE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. THE BEST WAY TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 059111

DEMONSTRATE THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE SUCCESS IN CHANGING BEGIN'S POSITION, BUT THIS IS PROBABLY ASKING TOO MUCH. IT BECOMES ESSENTIAL IN THAT CASE THAT BEGIN VISIT NOT CONCLUDE WITH HARMONIOUS REFRAIN THAT WE ARE IN TOTAL AGREEMENT AND EXPECT OUTSTANDING ISSUES TO BE NEGOTIATED. THE LATTER MAY BE TRUE, BUT IF OUR WORD IS TO CONTINUE TO HAVE ANY IMPACT HERE, WE WILL HAVE TO SHOW THAT WE STOOD UP STOUTLY FOR POSITIONS ARTICULATED PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE SECRETARY ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND ARE NOT AFRAID TO LET OUR DIFFERENCES BE KNOWN PUBLICLY AS WELL AS PRIVATELY. EILTS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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